

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-20 Building Date: 1860's  
Building Name: Cottage City House (Rural Cottage at The Highlands)  
Location: 4302 Bunker Hill Road, Cottage City, Maryland  
Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Cottage City House is a two-story frame L-shaped dwelling with mansard roof, which stands on a ca. 1/2 acre lot on the north edge of Cottage City. Entrance is through a door with plain board surround in the northeast interior corner of the ell. Filling the northeast corner of the ell is a one-story porch, which has a concrete slab floor and is supported by one square chamfered post. In the first bay of the two-bay north (main) facade is a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. Windows are 6/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds with upper head. The original plain horizontal board siding is now covered with white asbestos shingle. The cornice of the house is boxed with crown molding, and divides the first and second story. Above it is the mansard roof, covered with slate. All second story windows which pierce the vertical plane of the mansard roof are in the form of shallowly projecting dormers; they have pedimented lintels with crown molding in their raking cornices. The vertical plane of the roof is highlighted by five courses of fish-scale slate shingles. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney on the west facade. The foundation of the building is of brick.

Significance

The Cottage City house is a rare surviving example in Prince George's County of a Second Empire style, mansard roofed cottage. It was built in the 1860's on property which was soon after subdivided into the suburb of The Highlands. One hundred acres of a tract known as Yarrow were purchased in 1864 by Jeremiah Bartholow, and developed by him into a model farm. In 1870 the land was acquired by C. Eaton Creecy of D.C., and subdivided into lots which were presented to the public in an 1870 real estate publication, "The Highlands". Three dwellings stood already on the property: one, the subject house, was identified as a six-room rural cottage. This "rural cottage" stood on a two-acre lot with an outbuilding behind it and a circular drive accessible from the Bladensburg-Georgetown Road. It was sold by the Creecy Company in 1870 to Harriet Williamson, but it soon became the home of the family of Richard Nicklas. Since 1886 it has been the home of the Worch, Magie and Swindler families. In 1939 it was purchased by the City of Cottage City and was for many years a rental property. It was purchased by the present owners in 1979, and they have begun a careful restoration. The Cottage City house is a unique example of an early subdivision house. The closest parallels are the Seabrook cottages of a slightly later vintage, but the latter are representative of the Gothic Revival style. The Cottage City house may be the only surviving example in Prince George's County of an early suburban house with Second Empire stylistic features.

Acreage: 19,375 square feet

## #8 (Continued)

The Cottage City house is a unique example of an early subdivision house. The closest parallels are the Seabrook cottages (#70-11, -12, and -14) of a slightly later vintage, but the latter are representative of the Gothic Revival style. The Cottage City house may be the only surviving example in Prince George's County of an early suburban house with Second Empire stylistic features.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Deed FS #2:198; "City of the Highlands" real estate brochure, 1870.
- 2 "City of The Highlands" real estate brochure, 1870.
- 3 Plat HB #3:676.
- 4 Prince George's County Deeds HB #6:588; ATB #1:561; Equity #1368; cf. Chain of Title.
- 5 Prince George's County Deeds #542:5; #5129:272, 275.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rural Cottage at The Highlands

and/or common "Oldest house in Cottage City", Cottage City House

## 2. Location

street & number 4203 Bunker Hill ☒ not for publication

city, town Cottage City \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jose and Ann Rivera

street &amp; number 4203 Bunker Hill Road telephone no.: 779-5828

city, town Cottage City state and zip code MD 20722

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber #5129

street &amp; number Main Street folio 275

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#68-20

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Cottage City House is a two-story frame L-shaped dwelling with mansard roof, which stands on a ca. 1/2 acre lot on the north edge of Cottage City (formerly The Highlands). The house faces north toward the site of the old Carleton grist mill, which has recently been developed into a neighborhood park. Entrance is through a door with plain board surround in the northeast (interior) corner of the ell. (It leads into a stairhall which divides the house: parlour in the front, and dining room and kitchen in the rear). Filling the northeast corner of the ell is a one-story porch, which has a concrete slab floor and is supported by one square chamfered post.

In the first bay of the two-bay north (main) facade is a one-story semi-octagonal projecting bay. Windows are 6/1 double hung sash, and have plain board surrounds with upper bead. The original plain horizontal board siding is now covered with white asbestos shingle.

The cornice of the house is boxed with crown molding, and divides the first and second story. Above it is the mansard roof, covered with slate. All second story windows which pierce the vertical plane of the mansard roof are in the form of shallowly projecting dormers. They have pedimented lintels with crown molding in their raking cornices. The vertical plane of the roof is highlighted by five courses of fish-scale slate shingles.

Two new two-window projecting rectangular bays have replaced original windows on the two-bay south facade, in the first bay at second story level, and the second bay at first story level. There is an interior corbelled brick chimney on the west facade, which formerly served a fireplace in the west wall of the front parlor (this fireplace has been plastered over). The southerly two bays of the west facade are slightly recessed, and that area is filled with a one-story porch; the porch has a concrete slab floor, and is supported by plain square posts.

The foundation of the building is of brick, infilled in places with concrete block. There is a full basement.

The interior of the house consists of a front parlor on the north, divided by the stairhall from the southern section of the house (dining room and kitchen). The stairs rise toward the west from the small entry hall inside the main entrance; newel and balusters appear to be mid-twentieth century replacements. All door and window surrounds are of plain board.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.P.G.#68-20

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local history

Specific dates 1860's Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Cottage City house is a rare surviving example in Prince George's County of a Second Empire style, mansard roofed cottage. It was built in the 1860's on property which was soon after subdivided into the suburb of The Highlands.

One hundred acres of a tract known as Yarrow (south and west of the old Grist Mill) were purchased in 1864 by Jeremiah Bartholow, and developed by him into a model farm.<sup>1</sup> In 1870 the land was acquired by C. Eaton Creedy of D.C., and subdivided into lots which were presented to the public in an 1870 real estate publication, "The Highlands". In this publication, potential buyers were offered homes convenient to but removed from the city; the local newspaper was quoted as naming this site "one of the finest if not the very best pieces of property in the state of Maryland." Extensive orchards covered much of the town site, and apple, peach, pear and plum trees were offered on individual building sites. Three dwellings stood already on the property: a mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival style house, with outbuildings, a new villa type residence, and a six-room rural cottage which is the subject house, the only one of these original buildings still standing.<sup>2</sup>

This "rural cottage" stood on a two-acre lot (#45 in Block 10), with an outbuilding behind it and a circular drive accessible from the Bladensburg-Georgetown Road.<sup>3</sup> It was sold by the Creedy Company in 1870 to Harriet Williamson, but it soon became the home of the family of Richard Nicklas. Nicklas himself was committed in 1877 to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for the Insane, and his destitute wife appealed to the Equity Court for his real estate to be sold. It was sold, accordingly, in 1886, and has been the home of the Worch, Magie and Swindler families.<sup>4</sup> In 1939 it was purchased by the City of Cottage City and was for many years a rental property. The house and part of the original lot #45 were purchased by the present owners in 1979, and they have begun a careful restoration.<sup>5</sup>

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #68-20

Cf. Notes, item #8

Cf. Chain of Title

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 19,375 sq. ft. Tax map #50, Lot 45, Block 10Quadrangle name Washington East, Section E

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historianorganization P.G. Co. Historic Preservation Commission date December 1985street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## Chain of Title

### Cottage City House P.G. #68-20

#5129:275 24 July 1979 Mortgage	Anne T. McIntyre and Jose Rivera to Julius Williams and Laurence Hill, trustees of Veterans Administration; mortgagors are indebted to V.A. and to secure debt, mortgage the property (Lot 45 in Block 10 in the subdivision known as Creecy and Company's Subdivision of Highland) conveyed to the Town of Cottage City by #542:5.
#5129:272 24 July 1979 Deed	Max Cleland of the Veterans Administration to Anne McIntyre and Jose Rivera of 4203 Bunker Hill Road, Lot 45 of Block 10 of Creecy and Company's Subdivision of Highland.
#542:5 14 Dec 1939 Deed	Barbara Swindler to Thomas Tongue and Elizabeth Clagett (mortgagees) and City of Cottage City; Grantor and Mortgagees convey to grantee Lot 45 in Block 10 (Highland), same conveyed in #174:321.
#174:321 15 Nov 1921 Deed	Sadie Rowe (nee Swindler) and George Rowe to Barbara Swindler; Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland (Plat HB #3:676), same acquired by #152:155.
#152:155 22 Jan 1920 Deed	Richard D. Magruder to Sadie Swindler, Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland, same acquired by #125:363.
#125:363 28 Feb 1917 Deed	Phillip J. Stubener, executor of will of Elizabeth Stubener, to Richard D. Magruder, two parcels including Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland, same acquired by Elizabeth Stubener by #40:554.
#40:554 23 Aug 1907 Deed	Lizzie J. Magie to Elizabeth Stubener, Lot 45 in Block 10, Highland (Plat HB #3:676) same acquired by JB #10:445.
JB #10:445 12 May 1900 Deed	Alfred Worch to Lizzie Magie, Lot 45 in Square 10 in Highland, same acquired by JWB #6:607.
JWB #6:607 11 June 1886 Deed	Woodbury Wheeler, trustee, to Alfred Worch; Lot 45 in Square 10 in Highland; Wheeler appointed to sell the real estate of Richard Nicklas by equity #1368.

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#1368  
1888  
Deed  
Petition by Annie Nicklas to sell real estate of Richard Nicklas, non compos mentis; Woodbury Wheeler appointed trustee to sell, and does sell to Worch, Lot 45 in Square 10, Highlands.

ATB #1:561  
27 Oct 1879  
Deed  
Maurice Langhorne, attorney, to Richard Nicklas, for \$2,000, Lot 45 in Square 10, Highlands, improved to a two-story frame dwelling and outhouse.

ATB #1:559  
10 Oct 1879  
Deed  
John B. Williamson, trustee, to M. Langhorne, attorney, for \$1,000, Lot 45 in Block 10 in Creecy and Company's subdivision of Highlands. Whereas, Harriet Williamson sold this property to John B. Williamson as trustee for his wife and children, to hold or sell for them, and they have agreed to sell (October 17, 1879), therefore, John B. Williamson now sells to Maurice Langhorne.

HB #7:133  
22 Jan 1873  
Deed of Trust  
Harriet Williamson to John B. Williamson, as trustee for his wife and children, Lot 45 in Block 10 of Creecy and Company's subdivision of Highlands, acquired by HB #5:588, including a frame dwelling house on 9460 square feet of land, to hold or sell for them.

HB #6:588  
13 Dec 1870  
Deed  
Charles E. and Sarah Creecy of D.C. to Harriet Williamson for \$1,200; Lot 45 in Block B, with a two-story frame dwelling house on 9,460 square feet.

HB #6:587  
31 Dec 1870  
Quit Claim  
Henry Beard, trustee, to C. E. Creecy Company; whereas, Jeremiah Bartholow conveyed by deed of trust to Beard (to secure debt) part of Yarrow, and land has been subdivided into lots known as The Highlands; now Beard quit claims to Creecy Lot 45 in Square 10, 9,640 square feet.

HB #3:676  
ca. 1870  
Plat  
Shows Lot 45 in Square 10, 9,430 square feet, house and outbuilding.

HB #3:434  
4 May 1870  
Deed  
Jeremiah and Isabella Bartholow to C. Eaton Creecy, for \$30,000; 100 acres of Yarrow, part of land acquired by FS #2:200.

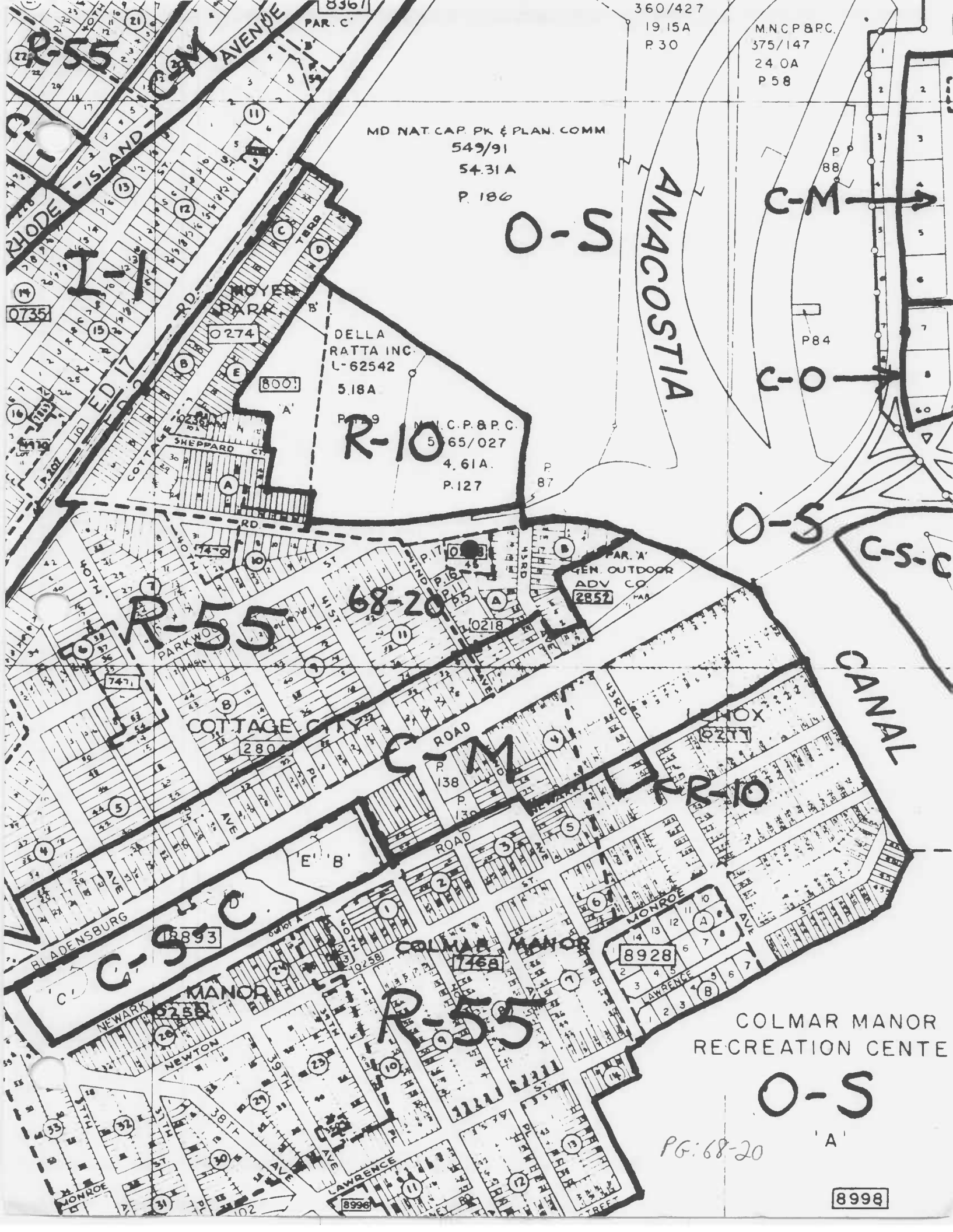
HB #2:54  
27 Jan 1869  
Deed of Trust  
Jeremiah Bartholow to Henry Beard, to secure payment of debt, Yarrow, which grantor acquired by FS #2:200; grantor is to occupy property until default, in which case Beard may sell as much as necessary to pay debt.



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FS #2:198  
25 Oct 1864  
Deed

Dr. John J. and Mary Jane Moran to J. P. Bartholow,  
for \$11,000, 141 acres of Yarrow (except that part  
sold to Henry Carleton, leaving 100 acres to be  
hereby conveyed).





PG#68-20

Cottage City House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
Northeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#68-20

Cottage City House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
East elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#68-20

Cottage City House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
Southwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD





PG#68-20

Cottage City House  
Prince George's County, MD  
Susan G. Pearl  
December 1985  
Northeast detail  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD